

SIGCS-1b

Acquisition of Land for Fort Huachuca

Chief of Engineers
Bldg T-7
Gravelly Point, Va

OCSigO

19 Oct 55
Mr Wilson/56370

1. There is a military necessity that approximately 44 sq miles of land be acquired for the Army Electronic Proving Ground, Ft Huachuca, Arizona. The area that is required adjoins the north eastern boundary of the present Military Reservation. The inclosed Real Estate Map, Plan No MAS-21, of the Ft Huachuca Post Engineer establishes the metes and bounds of the area. The area was formerly a part of the original Ft Huachuca Military Reservation, but title to it is not now held by the Department of the Army.

2. Ft Huachuca, at present, is comprised of approximately 80 sq miles, nearly half of which is inaccessible by roads because of its mountainous terrain. This mountainous area is unsuitable for usage for most of the Proving Ground's activities. The remaining area approximately 40 sq miles is too small in extent to permit thorough and efficient proving of a large portion of the Proving Ground's assignment of projects.

3. Some of the present conditions that severely hamper effective and efficient pursuits in the proving operations and which will be remedied by the acquisition of the requested area are as follows:

a. The existing artillery range prohibits the firing of artillery pieces larger than the 105 MM Howitzer. Maximum ordinate can not be used for the artillery pieces that can be fired. The danger of forest fires prohibits any extension of the range beyond its present limitations. The power transmission line to the Fort is within the range of fire and flying operations at Libby Army Air Field and are jeopardized by the use of the range.

b. The flying of drone aircraft at the Fort and the recovery of them when they land contrary to their planned flight cannot be done without great hazard to air craft flying operations and numerous ground facilities and operations at the Fort.

c. Numerous electronic proving operations require that stations be established remote from each other and be isolated from harmful interferences. Due to the smallness of the Fort's usable land area and the extent and requirements of other electronic operations great difficulty is experienced in locating stations that prove to be suitably isolated or adaptable for the electronic operations that are required.

4. The inclosed map shows those land sections which are believed to be recapturable. There are portions of sections 27, 33 and 34 of Township 20 South and Range 20 East; and sections 28, 29 and 33 of Township 20 South and Range 21 which are not known to be recapturable but which were included within the original reservation. The recapture of these areas would re-establish the original boundary of the Military Reservation. These areas should also be acquired provided they can be readily recaptured.

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5. It is requested that appropriate actions be taken. It is requested that a use permit be obtained, provided the areas can be acquired, authorizing immediate usage during the time required to affect the formal transfer actions.

FOR THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER:

1 Incl
a/s

ELMER L. LITTELL, Col, SigC
Comptroller